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P.S. I see that the Independent has
my article on Prohibition.

Newburyport, July 29, 1869.

Dear Wife:

In the same car with me, in coming to my native place yesterday, were Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and Miss Elizabeth Peabody. With the former was a Greek gentleman, to whom I was introduced by her. Miss Peabody sat with me, and talked with her usual fluency on a great variety of topics. A number of persons got into the cars at Lynn, Salem, &c., bound for the Women's Suffrage Convention. Arriving at ~~three~~ 5 o'clock, I went to the hospitable home of our friends the Ashbys, where I found Miss Wiggins, who has been staying with them since the Laurel picnic, when so many got such a thorough drenching - she having been wet through to her skin, as she told me; but, fortunately, no one was the worse for the watery baptism on the score of health.

The Convention had been sufficiently well advertised by large placards,

and all the necessary arrangements made for it. Still, I expected rather a slim attendance. The morning session, however, brought together a very good audience; in the afternoon the spacious hall was filled; and in the evening there were more present than could find seats. Three fourths were women, representing some of the most respectable families of the town; and all evincing a deep interest in the proceedings. Everything passed off very satisfactorily. Notwithstanding the weather was extremely sultry, and each session long protracted, (the evening one not closing till half past 10 o'clock,) the interest was unbroken to the end. Speeches were made by Mrs. Howe, Miss Peabody, Miss Olympia Brown, Mrs. Hannaford, Miss Graves, Mrs. Bowles, Rev. Mr. Galpin, Rev. Mr. Bowles, Rev. Mr. Vibberd, Rev. Mr. Wright, (Methodist,) ^{Judge Ames,} and myself. I spoke in the forenoon and evening, offering a series of resolutions which I had prepared, and which were unanimously adopted.

The speaking was generally very good, and very much to the point. Miss Brown was too repetitions, and Miss Peabody very rambling, without being able to make herself heard, except by those immediately around her. Mrs. Howe chiefly read from manuscript. The Star, of course, anticipated the Convention by derogatory remarks concerning its object; but it did us no harm. Dean S. J. May was not able to be with us, much to our disappointment, and to that of Joseph in special. The latter made no speech, but on Sunday evening last gave an excellent discourse on the subject from his pulpit, heartily endorsing the movement.

All are as usual at the Ashleys, except that he has taken cold within a few days, and is somewhat hoarse. He attended every session, trying as it was to bodily endurance. Affectionate inquiries were made about you, and Fanny, and the rest; and much would they like to see you down here.

It is still very warm to-day, though tempered by a good breeze. This evening I am to take tea with the Hortons, and shall probably meet there a number of people.

Whittier did not come down to our meeting; why we know not, except possibly on account of absence from home.

I may possibly be at home by to-morrow night; if not, then on Saturday.

The Herald makes too meagre a report of our proceedings to make it worth while to send it to you. Perhaps the Boston Journal may have had some account of the Convention. If so, Frank will save it for me.

Everything looks pleasant here, but the dulness and quietude are almost oppressive. I have wandered a little about the streets, recalling boyhood scenes, and awakening old remembrances.

Your loving W. L. G.